

Remarks

In the present response, claims 8 – 17 and 19 – 20 are pending. The claims are amended merely to place this application in condition for allowance.

Claims Rejections: 35 USC § 103(a)

Claims 1-5, 7, and 14-17 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over USPN 6,217,351 (Fung). These rejections are moot since claims 1 – 7 are canceled, and claim 14 is amended to include the recitations of allowed dependent claim 18.

Claims Rejections: 35 USC § 103(a)

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over USPN 6,217,351 (Fung) in view of USPN 6,217,350 (Johnson). This rejection is moot since claim 6 is canceled.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicants believe that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

Any inquiry regarding this Amendment and Response should be directed to Philip S. Lyren at Telephone No. 832-236-5529. In addition, all correspondence should continue to be directed to the following address:

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Respectfully submitted,

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